

REMARKS

Claims 38-45 were pending in this application when the present Office Action was mailed (February 9, 2006). In this paper, claims 38 and 40 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 38-45 are presently pending in this application.

In the February 9, 2006 Office Action, all of the pending claims were rejected. More specifically, the status of the application in light of the Final Office Action is as follows:

(A) Claims 38-41 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,249,053 to Nakata et al. ("Nakata") in view of the computer translation of Japanese Document No. JP 10-98045 to Shoji ("Shoji");

(B) Claim 42 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakata in view of Shoji and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,834,848 to Iwasaki ("Iwasaki");

(C) Claim 43 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakata in view of Shoji, further in view of Iwasaki, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,285,083 to Imai et al. ("Imai"); and

(D) Claim 44 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakata in view of Shoji and further in view of Imai.

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone conference on May 3, 2006. During the telephone conference, the Examiner provisionally agreed that the original claims with the foregoing claim amendments to claims 38 and 40 distinguish over the teachings of Nakata and Shoji. The following remarks reflect and expand upon the agreement reached during the May 3 telephone conference. As such, applicant respectfully requests that this paper also constitutes applicant's Interview Summary.

A. Response to Section 103 Rejection – Nakata and Shoji

Claims 38-41 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakata in view of Shoji. Even though the applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position, the applicant has amended claim 38 to further clarify the claimed subject matter.

Support for the amended subject matter can be found at, for example, Figure 4D, page 10, paragraph [0033]. Pursuant to the agreement reached during the May 3, 2006 telephone conference, amended claim 38 distinguishes over the combination of the teachings of Nakata and Shoji. For example, neither Nakata nor Shoji discloses a solder paste in openings of a solder-mask and a dielectric compound that electrically insulates the solder paste, the ball-pads, and solder-balls from an exposed portion of a trace line. Further, neither Nakada nor Shoji provide any suggestion or motivation for modifying their teachings to have such an arrangement. As a result, claim 38 is allowable over the combined teachings of Nakata and Shoji.

Claim 40 has been amended to contain subject matter generally analogous to that of amended claim 38, and thus also distinguishes over the combination of the teachings of Nakata and Shoji. Claims 39, 41, and 45, which depend from claims 38 or 40, distinguish over the combination of the teachings of Nakata and Shoji for the reasons discussed above and also because of the additional features of these dependent claims. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejection of claims 38-41 and 45 should be withdrawn.

B. Response to Section 103 Rejection – Nakata, Shoji, and Iwasaki

Claim 42 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakata in view of Shoji and further in view of Iwasaki. As discussed above, the combination of the teachings of Nakata and Shoji fails to teach or suggest all the features of amended claim 40, and Iwasaki fails to fill this void. As a result, claim 42 is patentable over the combination of the teachings of Nakata, Shoji and Iwasaki, because claim 42 depends from claim 40 and also because claim 42 includes additional features. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejection of claim 42 should be withdrawn.

C. Response to Section 103 Rejection – Nakata, Shoji, Iwasaki, and Imai

Claim 43 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakata in view of Shoji, further in view of Iwasaki, and further in view of Imai. As discussed above, the combination of the teachings of Nakata, Shoji and Iwasaki fails to teach or suggest all the features of amended claim 40, and Imai fails to fill this void. As a result, claim 43 is patentable over the combination of the teachings of Nakata, Shoji, Iwasaki, and Imai, because claim 43

depends from claim 40 and also because claim 43 includes additional features. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejection of claim 43 should be withdrawn.

D. Response to Section 103 Rejection – Nakata, Shoji, and Imai

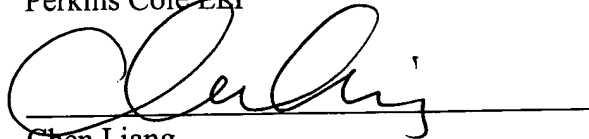
Claim 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakata in view of Shoji, and further in view of Imai. As discussed above, the combination of the teachings of Nakata and Shoji fails to teach or suggest all the features of amended claim 40, and Imai fails to fill this void. As a result, claim 44 is patentable over the combination of the teachings of Nakata, Shoji and Imai because claim 44 depends from claim 40 and also because claim 44 includes additional features. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejection of claim 44 should be withdrawn.

E. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims patentably define over the applied art. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and a mailing of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned representative at (206) 359-6038.

Respectfully submitted,

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